

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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<b>COUNTRY</b>	USSR	<b>REPORT</b>	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Execution of Soviet High-Level Personalities	<b>DATE DISTR.</b>	28 January 1955 25X1
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The execution of high-level personalities in the USSR, such as Col. Gen. V.S. Abakumov, would normally be handled by a special "goon squad" of the Headquarters (Commandant) Section (Komendantskiy otdel) of what is now the KGB. 25X1  
 it probably still comprises at least the Guards Subsection (Otdeleniye okhraniy), responsible for the physical security of the Lubyanka complex, and the "goon squad" mentioned above. 25X1
2. The team of executioners is made up of a group of four or six men, 25X1  
 "a real bunch of pigs -- all big, ugly brutes who have no qualms about their task". They carry out their executions in the basement of building No. 2 in Lubyanka, using either pistols or rifles. 25X1
3. When MGB /Maj. Gen. V.M. Blokhin headed the NKGB's Komendantskiy Otdel, until summer 1946, he would "sometime, just for the fun of it, invite himself down to the basement for an execution. He was often drunk or half-drunk, and would grab a pistol away from a guard and enjoy a little sport for a moment or two."

Comment: However, according to available information, the actual arrest of such high-level personalities would have been under the jurisdiction of the Seventh (Investigations) Directorate of the MVD.

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